

# The District 3 Slate

December 2005

County Supervisor Pam Slater-Price

*"Days of inflicting pain and suffering on an animal are over in San Diego County."*



County Supervisor  
Pam Slater-Price

**H**as another year really flown by? As the song reminds us, "Celebratin' what I should have done, With these souvenirs of my trip around the sun."

It was just yesterday when I accepted the gavel as chairwoman of the Board of Supervisors. Now the holidays are here, a New Year looms, and I prepare once again to pass that same gavel to a new chairperson.

I want to thank my colleagues and staff for their support this past year. I also thank you, the public, for your suggestions on how we can improve the quality of life we enjoy in San Diego County.

As we joyously celebrate the holidays, each one of us should pause for a moment to thank those who guard our freedoms and liberties. Do not take for granted their sacrifices. Extend a hand of comfort to those who find themselves away from home and family. The holidays are a time of togetherness, not loneliness.

May the holiday season fill your home and your life with the blessings of family and friends. I look forward to seeing you again next year!

- Pam

## State-Of-Art Animal Shelter Debuts

**I**t took a lot of work by a lot of dedicated people so the county could open its state-of-the-art North County Animal Shelter on Palomar Airport Road in Carlsbad. Outside the automatic glass front doors, the traditional ribboncutting was held. But inside is where the difference really matters: This is not your grandparent's dog pound.

County shelters across the nation were once little more than waiting rooms where dogs and cats were put to sleep, or sold to labs for horrific testing. Some companies tested new vaccines to save lives. Others did painful product testing. Dog pounds sorely in need of money, sold the animals for the bucks.

But the days of inflicting pain and suffering on an animal are over in San Diego County. At my behest, the county adopted a "no-kill" policy, severed its science research contract, and began putting in place humane programs to increase adoptions. In keeping with this new culture of caring for and adopting out animals, my colleagues and I on the Board of Supervisors changed the agency's name from Department of Animal Control to Animal Services. This set the tone for a new way of looking at animal care and adoptions.

In partnership with the City of San Diego we built a new San Diego Animal Shelter at Gaines Street, co-located with a new San Diego Humane Society facility in a first-ever partnership. I pointed out that it was now North County's turn.

The old shelter in Carlsbad was built in 1969. After 36 years of housing animals



Smiles and good cheer were shared by all when the North County Animal Shelter marked its opening. Joining me in the celebration are (from left) Supervisor Bill Horn, Encinitas Councilwoman Maggie Houlihan, John Carlson and Dawn Danielson.

in antiquated steel bar and cement floor cages, and running adoption operations out of a trailer, it was definitely time for a change. The North County Animal Shelter had seen more than its

**After 36 years of housing animals in antiquated steel bar and cement floor cages, and running adoption operations out of a trailer, it was definitely time for a change.**

share of paws, hooves and slithers. It is the busiest shelter in San Diego County, caring for more than 7,000 animals per year. The shelter primarily serves Carlsbad, Encinitas, Del Mar, Solana Beach, portions of the City of San Diego, and all of the

unincorporated areas of North County such as Fallbrook, Santee, Julian, Valley Center and Rancho Santa Fe.

With so much back country in its service area a large number of exotic animals pass through the shelter's doors. Snakes, pigs, monkeys, a Spur Thigh Tortoise, horses and cows have made the shelter home. Recently a dozen rescued llamas were brought to the shelter.

But with a leaky roof and other problems that interfered with the county's mission to adopt-out well-cared for animals, something had to be done. To jump-start the project I directed \$1.65 million in community projects funds, led the vote to infuse \$4.5 million from the county General Fund, and partnered with donors 4S Ranch (\$350,000), the Leona Trust (\$337,576) and other caring private citizens.

### TIME TO CARE...

**D**id you know that each day there are between 1.3 million and 2.8 million runaway teens and youth living on our nation's streets? To draw attention to this problem at the start of the holiday season, I presented a proclamation declaring November to be National Runaway Prevention Month. One out of every seven children will run away before the age of 18. Too often, these children descend into lives dominated by drugs, prostitution and violence. Teens and parents alike can call a toll-free number - 1-800-RUNAWAY - to talk with volunteer counselors.



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## PAM'S PERSPECTIVE

# Looking Back At A Year Of Accomplishments

**D**ecember brings us to the holiday season and that first glimmer of the New Year. It also brings an end to my year as chairwoman of the Board of Supervisors.

Because I have had the pleasure of serving as chairwoman twice before, I looked forward to this year with great enthusiasm. In my State of the County address, I raised a number of issues that I planned to tackle during my tenure. These included traffic congestion, beach erosion, childhood obesity and increasing support of the arts. I am happy to report this county made significant progress on each of these issues.

In regard to traffic, the board held a conference that included many of the region's top employers in an attempt to find regional solutions to congestion, particularly on our freeways.

This meeting provided a forum for offering creative approaches to this nagging problem. I will continue to work with area leaders in both the public and private sectors to explore ways to relieve the traffic problems that have, unfortu-

nately, become a regular feature of our daily life.

The board also examined the effects that sand erosion has had on our coastal communities. More than just an aesthetic issue, sand depletion affects the environment, the economy, recreation, property rights and quality of life. While the San Diego region is a leader in many areas, it trails other parts of the country in obtaining the federal funds to

keep our beaches healthy. We also lag in incorporating technology to replenish our beaches in ways that have a minimal impact on the environment. Again, although my time as chairwoman will soon end, I pledge to continue my work to build a coalition to make this issue a priority for the region.

One issue on which we have made great strides is childhood obesity. Supervisor Ron Roberts and I have worked with the Health and Human Services Agency, the Coalition on Children and Weight San Diego, health professionals, nutritionists, educators, and parents to create a countywide plan to

identify key strategies for the prevention and reduction of childhood obesity, outline how these strategies can be achieved, and coordinate with similar efforts already under way. That master plan will be unveiled early next year. It is my sincerest hope this plan will help prevent another generation of kids from growing up afflicted by obesity and its attendant health problems.

Finally, I have long been a lover of the arts and have tried to get other elected officials to see the tremendous benefits, particularly economic, that active arts programs bring to every city and community in our county. Since my early days as a supervisor, I have dreamed of a major arts festival that would put San Diego on the map as a destination for art lovers from around the globe. After years of planning, this dream comes to life in the form of "Mozart Year 2006," celebrating the Austrian composer's 250th birthday.

This year-long, regionwide event is the catalyst of what I be-



lieve will be the beginning of a new level of cultural tourism and art/business partnerships within San Diego County. I am pleased to report that other board members have contributed grants to sponsor Mozart-related events in their districts.

Of course, during my year as chairwoman, the board and I accomplished many things as a whole over the past year. In particular, we've made enormous strides in preparing against wildfires and other potential disasters. We've extended the trail network, added to the San Dieguito River Park, built the new North County Animal Shelter, moved the traffic-fighting Parkway Plan forward,



and supported hundreds of quality-of-life projects in my district. We also laid the foundation for a new county park along the San Luis Rey River.

As I hand over the gavel, I want to thank my colleagues for their support. By working as a team we have made this year one to be proud of. I wish the incoming chairman the best as he leads the county in new directions.

## Designation Assists Gregory Mountain

**O**ur county received some great news from the state: The agency that preserves landmarks has declared Gregory Mountain to be a historic site. The announcement from the California

Office of Historic Preservation is culturally significant for members of the Pala Band of Mission Indians, who see Gregory Mountain as sacred sites for worship and reflection, as well as many San Diegans who cherish the location's

serenity and ecological importance.

A portion of Gregory Mountain is proposed for a privately run garbage dump that opponents – myself included – have opposed for the past 15-plus years, based on very legitimate environmental concerns, degradation of the San Luis Rey River and aquifer, and its impact on the sacred sites.

### CULTURE A FACTOR

**T**he state designation means that developers of the proposed garbage dump, Gregory Canyon Ltd., must now address these cultural issues with representatives of the Pala Band. Gregory Mountain, also known as Taakwic Mountain and Chokla, is seen by members of the Luiseno society as a source of healing. Members often take per-

sonal trips to the mountain's remote sites to worship and reflect.

Gregory Mountain is a horrible location for a landfill. This project poses too many significant dangers to the environment and to our water quality. Gregory Mountain deserves to be protected, as much for its ecological importance as its cultural significance.

### VOLUNTEER TO SERVE...

**Y**ou can make a difference in our community by serving on the San Diego County Grand Jury, which is currently accepting applications for the 2006-07 panel. The Grand Jury is a citizen watchdog that examines all aspects of government.

Applicants have until Jan. 13 to submit their paperwork, which can be downloaded from [www.sdcourt.ca.gov](http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov) or requested by calling (619) 685-6667. To be eligible, an applicant must be a U.S. citizen of at least 18 years of age, lived in this county since July 1, can pass a criminal background check, and have good command of English.

The 19-member Grand Jury begins its next term on July 1.





## AROUND THE THIRD DISTRICT

**I**nvesting in the organizations that invest in improving our neighborhoods is one way to enhance the quality of life that gives the Third District its unique sense of community. The Board of Supervisors approved my requests in December:

### RANCHO BERNARDO

#### What A Kick!

Youth sports - especially soccer - are healthy activities that bring together parents and players. When a league hosts a major tournament, all of San Diego benefits through increased bookings for motel rooms, meals served at restaurants, and sundries purchased. The Rancho Bernardo Youth Soccer Association was awarded a \$25,000 grant that will offset costs of hosting a 100-team tournament Jan. 14 through 16. The grant will help cover such costs as referee fees, field rentals, trophies, promotion and printing of tournament programs.

### SAN DIEGO

#### Ounce Of Prevention

Let's face it - we are all targets of scammers looking to separate us from our wallets. To help inform people how to avoid such scams, I awarded a \$22,000 grant to the Elder Law and Advocacy organization, which will host a Consumer Protection Day in February. The event will be cosponsored by my office and District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis and will include experts in the field of consumer protection.

### SAN DIEGO

#### Understanding Seizures

A \$30,000 matching grant will assist the San Diego Epilepsy Foundation stage its annual Gingerbread City fund-raiser. Epilepsy is a disorder marked by seizures.



#### GOOD TO GO HOME

"Home 4 the Holidays" is the dream of every unwanted pet. The Helen Woodward Animal Center and the county animal shelters are teaming again this year to find local families willing to open their hearts and homes to a new furry friend. The nationwide goal is to have 350,000 animals adopted. You can do your part by visiting the website at [www.home4theholidays.com](http://www.home4theholidays.com) or by calling (800) 566-5038. The drive concludes on Jan. 2.

## Be Ready When Rain Arrives

**I**f you live in the unincorporated areas of the county and have concerns about erosion this rainy season, the Department of Public Works has stocked 10 cubic yards of sand and 4,000 bags at seven locations throughout this region, including Valley Center, Ramona, Julian and Alpine.

The National Weather Service is predicting this rainy season will see 10 to 12 inches, far less than last year's near-record 20-plus inches.



## New Park Gains Ground

**E**nvision a regional park where children play ball, hike oak-shaded trails, or just sit and observe the wonders of Mother Nature. The first step to make this dream come true was achieved when the my colleagues and I announced an agreement to purchase 116 acres near the old Bonsall Bridge for the San Luis Rey River Park. Purchase price is \$3.2 million. Ultimately, the park will comprise 1,500 acres.

### They Serve With Pride

**I**want to personally thank the following individuals for serving as my Third District representative to the various County committees and commissions that offer guidance to the Board of Supervisors. They are:

- Dolores Cutter, Aging and Independence Advisory Committee.
- Gary Strawn and Ruth Heifetz, Integrated Pest Management Committee.
- Sandy Arsham, Commission on the Status of Women.
- Dr. Richard Gersberg, Carolyn Powers and Ed Heidig, Environmental Health Advisory Board.

## Grants Will Benefit All Creatures

**P**reserving open space so that threatened and endangered plants and creatures of all sizes have the habitat necessary to survive is the ultimate goal of the Multiple Species Conservation Program.

To further the already successful efforts in this region, the County of San Diego and the City of Encinitas received a joint grant worth \$10 million that will be used to acquire property in Monte Vista Ranch and the Ramona grasslands.

By expanding the wildlife corridor along San Vicente and Santa Maria creeks, species such as the least Bell's viero, California gnatcatcher, Quino checkerspot butterfly, southwestern willow flycatcher, Stephens' kangaroo rat, ferruginous hawks and San Diego fairy shrimp will have room to thrive, ensuring their survival for decades to come.



#### DIGGING IT!

Smiles were the order of the day when members of the San Dieguito River Park JPA celebrated the turning of the spade marking the long-awaited beginning of the lagoon's restoration project. Marking the occasion with me are (from left) Dick Bobertz, executive director of the San Dieguito River Park; Samir Tanious, project manager for Southern California Edison, which is paying for the restoration as mitigation for the San Onofre nuclear generating station; Councilwoman Betty Rexford of Poway, who chairs the JPA; Frank Melone, former manager of environmental projects for SCE; and Susan Carter, the park's assistant director.

## AT THE COUNTY

### SHELTER

*Continued from Page 1*

Every step of the way North County Supervisor Bill Horn and other board members voted in support of building the new shelter.

At long last we held the grand opening for the new 25,000-square-foot shelter. Here's how a dog pound became a shelter:

- The shelter is entirely enclosed, utilizes both open-air ventilation for the kennels and climate-controlled areas for the catteries and meeting rooms.

- Eighty-four dog kennels with hydronic (in-floor) heating, and eight separate catteries, home to 80-plus cats, and two "community" habitats for interaction and play.

- A state-of-the-art medical center, including a surgical suite with separate exam, preparation, recovery and isolation rooms as well as an X-ray facility.

- Almost 4.5 acres that doubled parking to 68 spaces and allowed us to create an animal exercise area with walking track. With so many exotic animals a dedicated space was set aside for Project Wildlife to work out of the new shelter, another first-ever partnership.

- Just as important, interaction rooms for owners to meet with prospective pets to help increase adoptions. Animals are better behaved and less apprehensive when out of the cage and in a comfortable environment.

In short, goodbye dog pound, hello shelter.

If you remember the old shelter, this new facility will come as a shock. After the county built the new Gaines Street shelter the adoption rate climbed from 58.3 percent to 70 percent (and it keeps climbing). We expect similar success, if not better, at the new shelter.

An atmosphere conducive to finding pets new homes really works.



Dawn Danielson, director of animal services for the county (above), explains the benefits of the new surgical room at the North County Animal Shelter (right), which I dedicated.



### *The staff of Supervisor Pam Slater-Price*

- John Weil ..... Chief of Staff
- Sachiko Kohatsu ..... Land Use
- Danae Ramirez ..... Health & Human Services
- Jim Gonsalves ..... Housing
- Todd Voorhees ..... Budget & Finance
- Joe Sheffo ..... Public Safety
- Anne-Marie Jewel ..... Scheduling
- Frances Porter ..... Receptionist
- Dennis C. Lhota ..... Newsletter

Contact us at:

Write us at:

Website:

(619) 531-5533 or (800) 852-7334

1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335  
San Diego, CA 92101

[www.pamslater.com](http://www.pamslater.com)

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